

REMARKS

Claims 13-16, 18 and 19 currently are pending in this application. Claims 13-16 and 19 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants are concurrently filing a Request for Continued Examination and respectfully request reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants' Response To §103 Rejection over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art in view of Singer

Claims 13, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Applicants' prior art admission (pages 5-8 of Applicants' present specification) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,100,683 to Singer et al. (hereinafter "Singer"). Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection in view of the claim amendments herein.

More specifically, with respect to claim 13, the Examiner acknowledges that Singer does not disclose process steps (a) - (c) recited therein. According to the Examiner, however, Applicants admitted that such process steps are well known on pages 5-7 of its specification.

Claims 13 and 19 have been amended herein. In particular, Applicants have amended claim 13 herein to require the coating material applied in the initial rotating mixer to be a different formula from the coating material applied in the rotating drum mixer. This amendment is supported by disclosure appearing at pages 4 and 19 of the specification, as originally filed.

Applicants have amended claim 19 to include another rotating drum member in the process and to require the use of different coating formulas in each drum member. More specifically, the cores of gum material continuously proceed through the first rotating drum member and then are transferred to the second rotating drum member. Similar to the amendment in claim 13, discussed above, the coating material applied in the first rotating drum member is a different formula from the coating material applied in the second rotating drum member. This amendment also is supported by disclosure appearing at pages 4 and 19 of the specification, as

originally filed.

Nowhere in Applicants' admitted prior art or Singer is it disclosed or suggested to introduce sheets of gum material into a mixer to apply an initial coating thereon, and then to transport the individually coated gum pieces to a rotating drum member for continuous coating with a material that is a different formula from the coating applied in the initial mixer.

Similarly, nowhere in Applicants' admitted prior art or Singer is it disclosed or suggested to introduce cores of gum material into a first rotating drum member for continuous coating with one material and then transport the cores to a second rotating drum member for continuous coating with a second material that is a different formula from the first coating material.

In view of the above, and because claim 18 depends from claim 13, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 13, 18 and 19 are patentable over Applicants' admitted prior art and Singer, each taken alone or in combination.

Applicants' Response to 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Singer and Dumas, Greenberg, Yotka or Richey

Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Applicants' admitted prior art (pages 5-8 of Applicants' present specification) in view of Singer and one of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,900,261 to Ribadeau-Dumas et al (hereinafter "Dumas"), 5,980,955 to Greenberg et al (hereinafter "Greenberg"), 5,952,019 to Yotka et al (hereinafter "Yotka"), or 5,545,417 to Richey et al (hereinafter "Richey"). Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection in view of the claim amendments herein.

Claims 14-17 depend from claim 13. Dumas, Greenberg, Yotka and Richey all fail to cure the deficiencies of Singer and Applicants' admitted prior art noted above. These additional references were cited merely for their teaching of including gum arabic in chewing gum coatings, and contain no disclosure of relevance to Applicants' amended claim 13. Specifically,

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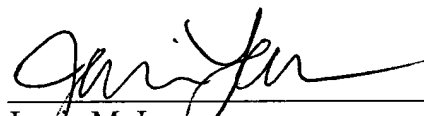
nowhere in Dumas, Greenberg, Yotka or Richey is there any disclosure, teaching, or suggestion related to coating chewing gum by using coating materials having different formulas in an initial mixer and a continuous coating apparatus.

Therefore, claims 14-16 are not obvious in view of the teachings of Applicants' admitted prior art in view of Singer and one of Dumas, Greenberg, Yotka or Richey. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection based on this combination.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the above, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number given below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2461.

Respectfully submitted,



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